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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Let us pray using the words of Psalm 84:

*How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.*

*Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Amen.*

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3557. An act to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, in recognition of his ac-

complishments as a priest, a chaplain, and a humanitarian.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 935. An act to authorize research to promote the conversion of biomass into biobased industrial products, and for other purposes.

### THE IRS IS A MESS

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, some recent disturbing news. Earlier this week, the General Accounting Office reported that the IRS, the Internal Revenue Service, America's tax collecting agency, does not know how much money it is collecting or, worse yet, where the money is going.

The GAO audit showed that the IRS frequently gives improper refunds and fails to promptly correct its own errors, costing the American taxpayers several billions of dollars every year.

Mr. Speaker, if the IRS cannot keep track of its property, income, or budget, how can the American taxpayer feel confident that they are not getting ripped off?

Even more disturbing, Mr. Speaker, is that the IRS is vulnerable to serious computer security problems, placing the financial and secure information of every American taxpayer in jeopardy.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that the IRS clean up its act. The American taxpayer is required to be diligent in paying its taxes. The IRS must be diligent in its duty to the American people, or we should get rid of it.

I yield back the unbelievable sloppy practices of our Nation's tax collector.

### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

### AMERICANS DESERVE A BETTER PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY CONTEST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, we are engaged right now in a Presidential primary contest on both the Republican and the Democratic side, and charges have been thrown back and forth, but I think America deserves better than this.

I know in Robert Kennedy's campaign in 1968, we got better than this; and in Ronald Reagan's campaign in 1980 we also got better than this. They seemed to have appealed to the better angels in all of us.

Unfortunately, today in Washington a man by the name of Al Sharpton is meeting with the Clinton administration and several Democratic Members of Congress. These Democratic Members of Congress continue to be in a close alliance with Mr. Sharpton, and there continues to be a close alliance between Mr. Sharpton and the Democratic Party, especially in New York City.

Unfortunately, Mr. Sharpton is a man and a political figure who has been described by most media outlets

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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